

Library Quarterly

WINTER 2025-2026

Rising Literary Stars p.7

One Book One Community p.8

Kid Market Applications p.15



the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library



Message from the Director

Dear Community:

I hope you've enjoyed the new library catalog over the past few months. In addition to a more modern interface, the catalog provides VAPLD cardholders access to more than 5 million items from 32 libraries across the north suburban area. Our staff worked hard to move to this new system. It's been great to hear your positive feedback — it confirms this big change was the right choice.

Meanwhile, planning continues for the renovation and expansion of the library building. This fall, architects visited in September and October to learn what our community needs and wants for the library's new design.

Since planning began in 2024, *your input* has helped to identify top priorities, including:

- A shorter walk from the parking lot
- A makerspace
- More study rooms, dedicated space for group collaboration, and more quiet areas
- A larger youth area for children
- More meeting space for library programs
- Spaces for piano recitals and service group meetings

The project will also address upgrading the library's mechanical systems, which have served the community for more than 30 years and are due for replacement.

Library leaders and architects are now working to fit all these requested improvements into a single design plan and determine the final costs.

This is an exciting time for the library and the community! We will share updates on our website, social media, and by email. To receive email notifications regarding these updates, please subscribe at VAPLD.info/LibraryPlan.



Vernon Area Public Library

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224-543-1483

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AdultDesk@VAPLD.info

Youth Desk: 224-543-1486,
YouthDesk@VAPLD.info

Senior Connections: 224-543-1406,
senior@VAPLD.info



Photo courtesy of Mothers Trust Foundation

Prom Dress Collection

Drop off new or almost-new formal wear and accessories to help local young women attend their Prom in style. Through a partnership with Zengeler Cleaners and Mothers Trust Foundation of Lake County, high school juniors and seniors who are unable to purchase their own Prom attire can select their own formalwear free of charge at a Pop-Up Prom Experience event held at the College of Lake County campus on Saturday, March 7 from 10 am–3 pm.

Donations will be collected in the library lobby from **February 6–March 6.**

Branch Out Reading Challenge

Branch Out, our yearlong reading challenge for adults, is back for a third year! This flexible and self-paced challenge is designed to help you grow as a reader in 2026, whether you're hoping to get back into a reading habit or looking to try new genres.

Starting in January, you'll have all year to read books that fit each of the 12 themes featured in the Branch Out booklet, and anyone who completes all 12 themes gets a special collector pin. Our librarians have handpicked some

fiction and nonfiction suggestions to get you started, but feel free to read any books on your to-read list that fit the themes. You can also sign up for exclusive monthly emails that highlight favorite titles from your fellow participants.

Stop by the Adult Desk or visit VAPLD.info/BranchOut in January to join our community of readers for another year of great books!



Toys for Tots Collection

Drop off new, unwrapped toys in the library lobby for the annual Toys for Tots campaign with the Great Lakes Marine Corp.

Coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, will distribute the toys to economically disadvantaged children in the community.

Collection boxes will be in the lobby from **November 21–December 7.**

Foundation Update

What does a thriving library mean to you? To the 44,000 residents of our district, it might mean a first storybook, a space to study, a new job skill, or an ongoing connection to community. The Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District strengthens the library's ability to fulfill its mission. Your generosity helps us offer unique programming, expand library makerspace equipment and Library of Things, fund special initiatives, and more.

Thanks to donors like you, the library has recently ...

- More than doubled participation in the summer reading program, setting up hundreds of students for educational success
- Added StoryWalks to the library grounds and Library Learning Garden
- Provided premier cultural programming through the MOSAIC series
- Raised more than \$6500 for new equipment while celebrating 50 years of library excellence!

Help us finish the year strong and set the stage for our most impactful year yet. Every dollar you donate powers the resources, programs, and community connections that define your library. Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday, December 2. Or visit VAPLD.info/foundation to make a gift online, anytime.



Thank you to our donors

\$2500 and above

Jennifer Crone

\$1000+

Komarek-Hyde-Soskin Foundation

\$500+

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\$100+

Julie & Erich Bratton, Sara Eisenstein, Samantha Fahndrich, Jay & Loretta Foss, George & Nancy Goldstein, Ashlee Hocking, Caryn & Matthew Hsu, Sarah Huskey, David Hwang, Jay & Sherry Kasten, Ken Roberts, Julie Roper, Steve and Barb Taylor, David Weidenfeld

Up to \$100

Anonymous, Erika Ayala, Priya Bhatt, Lisa Burton Radzely, Lauren Beth Gash, Jan Grant, Gianna Gross Brandt, Julia Hamilton, Debra & Stuart Hersh, Edna & Larry Kelly, Jay Mowli, David & Aileen Schulman, Kay Stump, Candy Wheeler

We also thank these local businesses for their support through sponsorships, dining days, and gifts in kind:

Buffalo Grove Bank & Trust • Child First Academy • Midwest Tapes, Sedgebrook & Radford Green, Tamarak Day Camp & Country School • Culver's of Lincolnshire, Play Hard Hoops, Zizzo Auto Body, Graber & Gyllenhaal Orthodontics, Vogue Printers, Woodman's Market, Jawz Orthodontics • Overdrive • Ultimate Distributing Inc. • Bark Box, Buttermilk, Cava, Chicago Bears, Chicago Fire Soccer Club, Chicago Stars Soccer Team, Chicago White Sox, Chick Fil A, CityWorks, CM Chicken & Boba, Costco, Deerfields Bakery, Dose Drip Bar, Eddie Merlots, El Poblano Tacos, European Wax Center, Fat Rosies Taco & Tequila Bar, Floyd's Barbershop, Green Basil, ISI Elite Training, Jewel-Osco, Jing Gao, Lakeshore Learning, Lynfred Winery Wheeling, Movement and Sound Dance, My Gym, Nino's Pizzeria, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Original Bagel & Bialy, Overtime Athletics Chicagoland, Plenty of Huevos, Roti, Saranello's /Lettuce Entertain You, Schaumburg Boomers Baseball, Shake Shack, Slyce Pizza, Verdant Tutoring & Coaching Community, Vernon Hills Gymnastics, Whole Foods, Wick 'n Ore

And thank you to everyone who attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser!

Featured Resources *for adults*



STREAMING MOVIE SERVICES

Instantly screen movie classics, world cinema, indie films, and documentaries with Kanopy. Available on the app or web.

VAPLD.info/Kanopy



ONLINE ART & CRAFT CLASSES

Get inspired with thousands of award-winning art and craft video classes, available on-demand. Learn new skills and nurture your creative side.

VAPLD.info/Creativebug



INVEST IN YOURSELF

Explore thousands of continuously updated, on-demand videos in business, technology, design, and more. Available in 15 different languages.

VAPLD.info/Udemy

Classes & Events *for adults*

All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted ( in-person,  online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. All events are free and open to all. Signup is required unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1485.

Author Spotlight

Exclusive, interactive online interviews with today's most compelling authors, brought to you in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium. Sign up for talks and learn more at VAPLD.info/AuthorSpotlight.

Sue Hincenbergs, *The Retirement Plan*, a novel

Tuesday, December 2, 1–2 pm 

Paula Johnson, *Julia Child's Kitchen*

Tuesday, December 9, 1–2 pm 

David Brooks, *New York Times* Opinion Columnist

Tuesday, January 13, 1–2 pm 

Historical Fiction Writer Vanessa Riley, *Fire Sword & Sea*

Thursday, February 5, 6–7 pm 

Lindsey Stewart, *The Conjuring of America: Black Women's Magic*

Thursday, February 12, 1–2 pm 

Signup opens for Citizenship Preparation Classes

Prepare for your citizenship test in a small group. Content includes speaking, reading and writing English, along with U.S. history and civics. Classes meet for 12 weeks online, Tuesdays, January 27–April 14 from 7–8:45 pm. Sign up online at VAPLD.info/citizenship

December 1: Signup opens for Vernon Area Library cardholders

January 5: Signup opens for all others

Seed Packing Social

Help prep for the March 2026 return of the Seed Library with a hands-on seed-packing party. Drop in as you can or come for the whole two hours. No green thumb required!

Sunday, December 7, 2–4 pm

Saturday, January 17, 1–3 pm

Saturday, February 21, 2–4 pm

Winter Weather Driving and Vehicle Maintenance

Gear up for the winter weather as Robert Boyle, Assistant Professor of Automotive Technology at College of DuPage, shares tips on preparing your car for freezing temperatures, handling icy roads with confidence, and assembling a roadside emergency kit.

Thursday, December 4, 7–8 pm



Mighty Lonesome Trio, January 25

Theatrical Reading of Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*

Equity actors from The Shakespeare Project of Chicago present a theatrical reading of this classic and beloved memoir of a boyhood Christmas. Presented with permission of the Truman Capote Literary Trust.

Monday, December 8, 7–8 pm

Rags to Rhinestones: The Musical Life of Dolly Parton

Celebrate the music and story of country music legend Dolly Parton through songs and stories performed by singer Marianne Murphy Orland, accompanied by favorites Beckie Menzie and Laura Freeman.

Wednesday, December 17, 1–2 pm

Puzzle Exchange

Bring your used puzzles (no missing pieces) to trade with other puzzle enthusiasts.

Friday, January 2, 12–1 pm

Puzzle Race

Put your skills to the test in a timed competition! Teams have up to 2 hours to complete as much of a 500-piece puzzle as possible. Register individually or in a team of up to four people. Prizes will be awarded. Adult required for teams with children under 12.

Friday, January 2, 1–3 pm

English as a Second Language (ESL) Class Registration

New students: drop in to attend an informational meeting, placement testing, and registration. Classes meet twice a week beginning January 12/13. For more info, call the Mundelein District 120 Adult Education Department at 847-949-2200 ext. 1399.

Wednesday, January 7, 9:15 am–12 pm

Charging Your Worth with Confidence

Chelsie Tamms, designer and brand strategist for Lettering Works, identifies ways to say yes only to the best (and biggest) opportunities while also staying profitable. Hosted by the Indian Trails Public Library in collaboration with Lake Cook Career Collaborative member libraries.

Tuesday, January 13, 7–8 pm 

Path to Citizenship

A one-hour overview of the journey from Green Card holder to U.S. citizen. Includes information about eligibility, N-400 applications, medical exceptions, fees, public benefits, and the interview and oath ceremony.

Tuesday, January 13, 7–8 pm 

A Brief and Surprisingly Interesting History of Brick Architecture in Chicago

When Chicago rebuilt after the Great Fire, bricks shaped its architecture and style. Architectural photographer Will Quam shares a visually rich journey through the city's brick history and how this everyday material tells an extraordinary story.

Wednesday, January 14, 1–2 pm

Secrets to Restorative Sleep

Discover how sleep impacts your health and daily life with wellness coach Debbie Friend. Learn about insomnia, sleep apnea, the effects of sleep disturbances, and practical tips for better rest.

Tuesday, January 20, 7–8 pm

Paint with Paper: A Portrait Collage Workshop

Create vibrant portraits using only paper—no paint required! Inspired by the cover of this year's One Book One Community selection.

Wednesday, January 21, 4–6 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm

Thursday, January 29, 6:30–8:30 pm

Concert: Mighty Lonesome Trio

The Midwest's finest bluegrass musicians blend the golden era of traditional bluegrass with their own modern style, showcasing tight harmonies and virtuoso playing honed over 25 years together.

Sunday, January 25, 1–2 pm

Civic Awareness Series: An Evening with Paul Lisnek

WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek kicks off the 2026 Civic Awareness Series speaking about Illinois politics and helping prepare you for the upcoming midterm elections in November. Presented by The League of Women Voters of the Palatine, Schaumburg, and Barrington areas and various Illinois libraries.

Tuesday, January 27, 7–8 pm   Schaumburg Library

Revolutionary America

Actress Rebecca Tulloch brings John and Abigail Adams to life in Revolutionary Boston. Experience the turbulence of protests against British taxes, red-coated soldiers in the streets, and the threat of smallpox. Amidst it all, the Adamses raised a family, ran a farm, and played a pivotal role in founding a new nation.

Wednesday, January 28, 1–2 pm

Love in the Library: Romance Authors Discussion

Meet local contemporary romance authors Carly Robyn, Erin Marie Bassett, and Paige Campbell, plus Pink Couch Books owner Lora Amigo. Get ideas to add to your romance TBR list with Emily Luedloff of Sourcebooks Publishing, then stay for Valentine treats and crafts.

Wednesday, February 4, 7–8 pm

Parent Education: The Science of Motivating Young People with Dr. David Yeager

Presented in partnership with D96, D102, and D103 Parent Education.

Wednesday, February 4, 7–8 pm 

The Mystery of Nancy Drew

Historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., explores the history of America's favorite girl detective. Who was Carolyn Keene, author of the series? Why did this girls' book series, more than any other, captivate generations of readers?

Wednesday, February 11, 1–2 pm

Writing Your Life Lessons & Legacies

Communicate and preserve your values, stories, wisdom, and blessings for future generations. Part of this year's One Book One Community programming.

Sunday, February 15, 1–2:30 pm

A Taste of New Orleans

Learn the compelling origins of the city's most celebrated gastronomic treasures—café au lait and beignets, gumbo, and king cake—as you travel from the iconic Café Du Monde to the heart of the Bayou with author, former NOLA resident, and food history enthusiast Amy Gail Hansen.

Tuesday, February 17, 1–2 pm

Icy Worlds in our Solar System

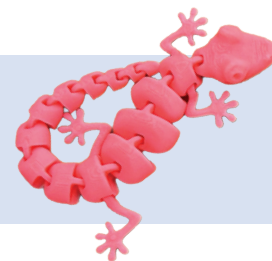
Explore the solar system's frozen wonders—from icy moons and comets, to flowing glaciers, and ice volcanoes—with Michelle Nichols, director of Public Observing at the Adler Planetarium.

Thursday, February 19, 7–8 pm

3D Printing at the Library

Did you know Vernon Area cardholders are allowed one free 3D print a month?

Want to request your own 3D print?
Get started at VAPLD.info/3Dprinter



Maker & Technology Classes

Open Makerspace

Stop by to work on personalized crafts. We won't be teaching any new skills, but supplies will be available for sublimation printing and other projects.

Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 pm

December 2, 16; January 6

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm

December 18, February 26

Maker Class: Felt Boxes

Make your own felt box for storing jewelry, keys, or other knick-knacks. All supplies will be provided.

Thursday, January 8, 6:30–8:30 pm

Intro to Python

Learn, practice, and experiment with the basics of Python in this three-part, hands-on class.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm

January 13: Basics

January 20: String Operations, Defining Functions, & Decision Structures

January 27: Loops

3D Printing

Learn to use the free design software TinkerCAD to create your own 3D prints. Sign up for each session separately.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm

January 15: Basics

January 22: Design Considerations

January 29: Moving Parts

Gmail Crash Course

Learn how to work efficiently with your Gmail account.

Thursday, February 5, 7–8:30 pm

Creating with Canva

Learn how to use Canva to create a design that can be printed on a mug using our sublimation printer (available in the Open Makerspace classes).

Tuesday, February 10, 7–8:30 pm

Maker Class: Valentine's Day Cards

Make layered and multi-dimensional cards using die-cuts.

Thursday, February 12, 6:30–8:30 pm

Google Drive

Learn to use this popular free cloud storage service to create documents, collaborate, and improve productivity.

Thursday, February 19, 7–8:30 pm

Meetups & Discussions

English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm

December 2, 16; January 6, 20; February 3, 17

Spinning Yarns: Knit & Crochet Group

Connect with fellow yarn lovers in a friendly and creative space at the library. Bring your supplies to work on your project. All levels welcome.

Wednesdays, 10–11 am

December 3, January 7, February 18

Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the best sellers.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am

December 11: *Colored Television* by Danzy Senna

January 8: *The Wildes* by Louis Bayard

February 12: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

Writers' Support Group

Share work, meet fellow writers, get constructive feedback, and discuss the publishing business in this informal group. All writers welcome.

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm 

December 11, January 8, February 19

Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Use your library card to check out or stream the film in advance, then log in to share your thoughts.

Fridays, 3:30–4:30 pm 

December 12: *A Simple Plan*

January 9: *Presence*

February 13: *Vanilla Sky*

Games for Grown-ups

Play tabletop games together at the library or online. Open to all skill levels.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm  

December 14; January 11, 18; February 22

AI Book Discussion: *The Alignment Problem: Machine Learning and Human Values* by Brian Christian

Take an engaging look at artificial intelligence and what it means to create machines that reflect human values. Limited copies of the book are available for checkout to Vernon Area cardholders.

Wednesday, January 14, 7–8 pm

Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Craft in the company of other crafters, online. Work on your own project, share ideas, and socialize. All skill levels welcome.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm 

December 16, January 27, February 24

World Language Movie Discussion

Stream or borrow the movie with your library card, then discuss with fellow international cinema fans.

Wednesdays, 7–8 pm 

December 17: *Hope*

February 25: *When Lambs Become Lions*

Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

In your 20s or 30s and thirsting for intelligent conversation with excellent people? Meet for a book discussion at Half Day Brewing in Lincolnshire with excellent people over adult beverages and delicious food.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm  Half Day Brewing, Lincolnshire

December 18, January 15, February 19

Choose Your Own Adventure: A Book Club

Silently read your own book or audiobook for an hour, then choose to continue reading or chat with others. Some snacks will be provided, or bring your own.

Mondays, 6:30–8:30 pm

January 12, February 2

Novel Night Book Discussion: *Hello Beautiful*

Read and discuss this year's One Book One Community selection, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano.

Tuesday, January 20, 7–8:15 pm

Memory Café

Connect monthly with other individuals with memory loss and their caregivers for socialization and fun, interactive programs.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm  Alcott Center, Buffalo Grove

January 22, February 26

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Discuss critical global issues from the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* book with facilitator Gary Midkiff.

Friday, February 13, 1–2:30 pm 

Wednesday, February 18, 10:30 am–12 pm 

One Book One Community Book Discussion

Discuss the book selected for this year's community-wide read, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Find related programs and info about the author visit on p.8 or 1book.org.

Wednesday, February 25, 2–3 pm

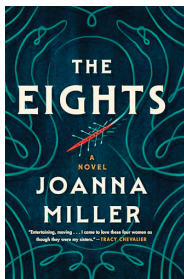
RECOMMENDED READING

Rising Literary Stars: 2025 Debuts

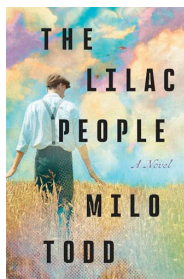


It's been an outstanding year for exciting new reads! In case you feel like too many buzzworthy releases passed you by, or you were too busy catching up on your favorite authors, we're highlighting some of the notable debuts from the past year to help fill out your to-read list.

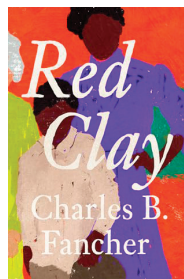
Historical Fiction



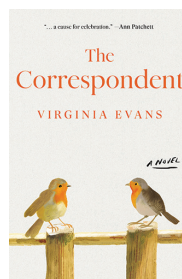
The Eights
Joanna Miller



The Lilac People
Milo Todd



Red Clay
Charles B. Fancher



The Correspondent
Virginia Evans

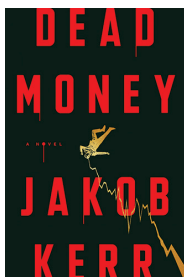


Penitence
Kristin Koval

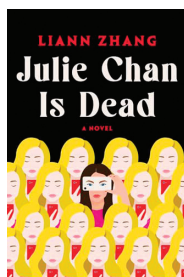


Homeseeking
Karissa Chen

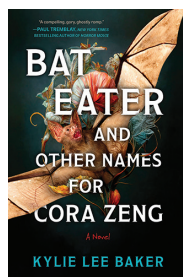
Thrillers & Horror



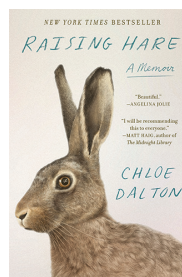
Dead Money
Jakob Kerr



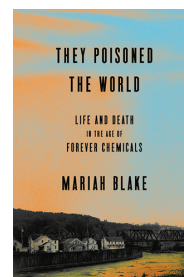
Julie Chan Is Dead
Liann Zhang



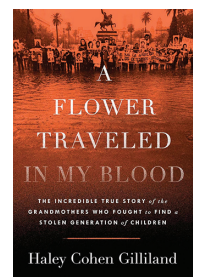
Bat Eater and Other Names for Cora Zeng
Kylie Lee Baker



Raising Hare
Chloe Dalton



They Poisoned the World
Mariah Blake



A Flower Traveled in My Blood
Haley Cohen Gilliland

Nonfiction

10
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



Ann Napolitano

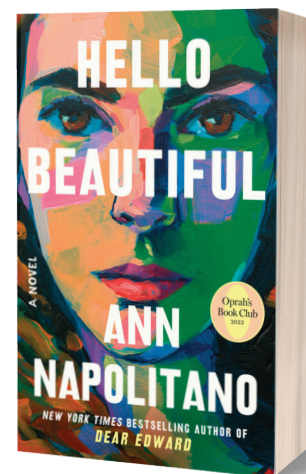
Now in its tenth year, the beloved One Book One Community series is an opportunity for readers from Vernon Area, Indian Trails, and Cook Memorial public libraries to join in a shared experience of literature. This year's selection is ***Hello Beautiful*** by Ann Napolitano.

Hello Beautiful is an emotionally layered and engrossing family story that asks: Can love make a broken person whole?

Awarded a college basketball scholarship away from his childhood home silenced by tragedy, a young man befriends a spirited young woman who welcomes him into her loving, loud, chaotic household.

An exquisite homage to Louisa May Alcott's timeless classic, *Little Women*, *Hello Beautiful* is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.

Ann Napolitano is the bestselling author of *Hello Beautiful*, which was selected as Oprah's 100th Book Club pick; *Dear Edward*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a Read with Jenna selection, and an Apple TV+ series; *A Good Hard Look*, and *Within Arm's Reach*. Napolitano was previously the associate editor of the literary magazine "One Story." She holds an MFA from New York University and has taught writing at Brooklyn College, NYU, and Gotham Writers Workshop. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.



Building Community, One Book at a Time

For many readers, meeting an author in person is an unforgettable experience. Recognizing this, Community Engagement Program Coordinator Roz Topolski wanted to bring such opportunities to the library. However, the cost of hosting popular authors was often prohibitive. This challenge led to the creation of the One Book One Community program.

"I reached out to our neighboring library districts, Indian Trails and Cook Memorial, to inquire if they would be interested in partnering with us and splitting the cost," said Roz. "They were immediately excited about the idea, and we started working together. It's been a fantastic partnership."

Over the last decade, One Book One Community has remained true to its goals of having a shared reading experience within the community, encouraging conversation, and reflecting on how the books might help us better understand ourselves and others.

A committee of staff from all three libraries works together to select the book each year. They begin by reading a lot of books, then narrow the list down by evaluating the themes, reviews, length, programming ideas, and author availability. The book also needs to be available in paperback and a variety of formats, such as audio and large print.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many readers looking forward to participating each year.

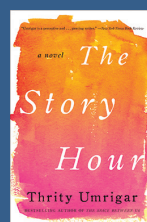
In the post-program survey, one respondent said, "I absolutely love this program! I look forward to it every year. Over the years, this program has introduced me to new authors that I have loved. A few of the selections have challenged me to read a genre/style I would not usually choose, and I always enjoy them. Thank you for continuing to offer this program."

If you have never participated in One Book One Community, consider reading the book or attending a program this year. You can attend programs at any of the three libraries.

"There are so many reasons to participate," said Roz. "Readers might be exposed to an author or genre they wouldn't have considered on their own. Additionally, the discussions and themed programming will likely provide them with greater insights into the book... readers always enjoy meeting the author in person. They discover new, inspiring ideas related to the book. The author event is hands-down one of the best days of the year at the library!"

Visit the library on **Sunday, December 7 from 1–2 pm** to pick up a free copy of this year's selection, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. One copy per household while supplies last. Learn more about One Book at 1book.org.

Looking Back: One Book Over the Years



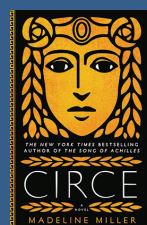
2017



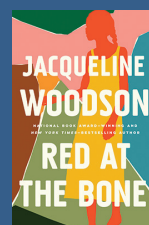
2018



2019



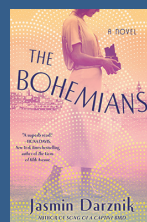
2020



2021



2022



2023



2024



2025

One Book One Community Programs

Each library offers discussion groups and programs related to the themes of the book. All are welcome at these free events; sign up in advance. Note locations (🏠 in-person, 🌐 online). Find additional programs, details, and signup links at 1book.org.

One Book One Community Kickoff

Stop by to pick up a complimentary copy of the book, courtesy of the Foundation for the Vernon Area Public Library District. One per household while supplies last.

Sunday, December 7, 1–2 pm

3D Portrait Take & Make Craft Kit

ALL AGES

Create a 3D portrait using supplies and instructions from the craft kit. Available while supplies last at the Youth Desk or drive-up window.

Available beginning January 9

Book Discussions

Tue, Jan 13, 10:30 am 🏠 Indian Trails

Thu, Jan 15, 10 am 🏠 Cook Park

Tue, Jan 20, 7 pm 🏠 Vernon Area

Wed, Jan 28, 10:30 am 🏠 Indian Trails

Tue, Feb 3, 7 pm 🏠 Aspen Drive

Thu, Feb 12, 10 am 🏠 Vernon Area

Mon, Feb 16, 7 pm 🏠 Indian Trails

Thu, Feb 19, 7 pm 🏠 Cook Park

Wed, Feb 25, 2 pm 🏠 Vernon Area

What We Talk About When We Talk About Art

Tuesday, January 20, 2–3 pm

🏠 Indian Trails

Paint with Paper: A Portrait Collage Workshop

Wednesday, January 21,

4–6 pm or 6:30–8:30 pm

Thursday, January 29, 6:30–8:30 pm

🏠 Vernon Area

The Murals of Pilsen

Thursday, January 22, 7–8 pm

🌐 🏠 Aspen Drive

A Conversation About Men's Mental Health

Wednesday, February 11, 7–8 pm

🏠 Indian Trails

Healing & Preventing Sports Injuries

Thursday, February 12, 7–8 pm

🌐 🏠 Cook Park

Family Create a Mural

Saturday, February 14, 10–11 am

🏠 Aspen Drive

Writing Your Life Lessons & Legacies

Sunday, February 15, 1–2:30 pm

🏠 Vernon Area

Finale Event: Author Ann Napolitano

Celebrate the culmination of One Book One Community's 10th anniversary with novelist Ann Napolitano as she shares her inspiration and insights behind this year's selection, *Hello Beautiful*.

Sunday, March 1, 1–2 pm

🌐 🏠 Stevenson High School
Lincolnshire, Illinois

Tiny Portrait Art Show

Be inspired by the cover of this year's One Book One Community selection, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Pick up a kit at the library to create a portrait of yourself, your favorite person, or a person from your imagination. Open to ages 10 through adult.

Return your artwork by January 11 to be part of the community art exhibit in the lobby during the month of February.

Supply Pick Up: December 7–23

Get a supply kit at the One Book One Community Kickoff event on December 7, or through December 23, while supplies last.

Tiny Portrait Art Show Exhibit: February 1–March 1

Stop by the library to visit the Tiny Portrait Art Show, an exhibit of canvases created by local residents.

Classes & Events *for teens*

All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted (🏠 off-site, 🟢 online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapl.org/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.

Seed Packing Social TEENS & ADULTS

Prep for the Seed Library with a hands-on seed-packing party. Drop in as you can. All are welcome—no green thumb required!

Sunday, December 7, 2–4 pm

Saturday, January 17, 1–3 pm

Saturday, February 21, 2–4 pm

Wooden Bookmark Sublimation GRADES 6–12

Create your own design in Canva, then sublimite it onto a wooden bookmark.

Wednesday, December 10, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn THRU GRADE 8

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 🟢

December 19: French Toast

January 23: Lasagna & Garlic Bread

February 20: Gold Medal Munchies

Drop-In Art ALL AGES

Drop in for a sticker mosaic and coloring.

Saturday, December 20, 10 am–4 pm

Fridays, December 26, January 2, 10 am–4 pm

Wednesday, February 18, 3:30–7 pm

Kid Market Application Period GRADES 3–8

Junior entrepreneurs: apply for personalized business coaching, followed by an expo-style market day at the library in April. Details and application: [VAPLD.info/KidMarket](https://vapl.org/KidMarket)

Apply: December 28–January 25

Market Day: April 18

Puzzle Race GRADES 3–ADULT

Put your skills to the test in a timed competition! Teams have up to 2 hours to complete as much of a 500-piece puzzle as possible. Register individually or in a team of up to four people. Prizes will be awarded. Adult required for teams with children under 12.

Friday, January 2, 1–3 pm

Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion GRADES 6–8

Discuss *Mexikid* by Pedro Martín. A copy of the book (yours to keep) is reserved when you register.

Monday, January 5, 7–8 pm

Lock Decoders GRADES 6–8

Use your detective skills and brain power to unlock as many locks as you can before time runs out. Follow the clues, solve the puzzles, and have fun!

Wednesday, January 14, 7–8:15 pm

Teen Service Club: Giving Back on MLK Day GRADES 7–12

Engage with your community while honoring the legacy of Dr. King. Make no-sew blankets, cards, and other crafts that will be donated to local organizations. Earn volunteer service hours for participating.

Monday, January 19, 3–4 pm

Off the Page: A Teen Book Club GRADES 8–12

Love to read? Meet at Culver's and add your voice to the banter while enjoying frozen custard (our treat!)

Mondays, 7–8:15 pm 🏠 Culver's of Lincolnshire

January 26: *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune

February 16: *Most Ardently* by Gabe Cole Novoa

Chess GRADES 5–8

Discover chess moves, strategies, and checkmate techniques with National Chess Master Arjun Vishnuvardhan of Glenview Chess. All experience levels welcome.

Wednesday, January 28, 6:30–7:30 pm

Parent Education: The Science of Motivating Young People with Dr. David Yeager PARENTS

Presented in partnership with D96, D102, and D103 Parent Education.

Wednesday, February 4, 7–8 pm 🟢

AI Basics GRADES 6–12

Learn the basics of AI, how it is used in everyday applications, and how to stay safe while using it.

Wednesday, February 11, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

DIY Bead Plants GRADES 6–12

No green thumb? No problem. Hang out and create a masterpiece plant out of beads that will brighten up any shelf. All supplies provided.

Monday, February 23, 7–8 pm



Featured Resources *for elementary-aged kids*



BOOK MATCH

Find your next great read with suggestions from expert librarians. Complete the form and we'll send you a list of recommendations just for you. For independent readers through grade 8.
VAPLD.info/BookMatch



HELP WITH SCHOOLWORK

Get help with schoolwork and test prep by connecting with live subject specialists. Have papers reviewed and take practice quizzes and worksheets. For grades 1–12.
VAPLD.info/Tutor

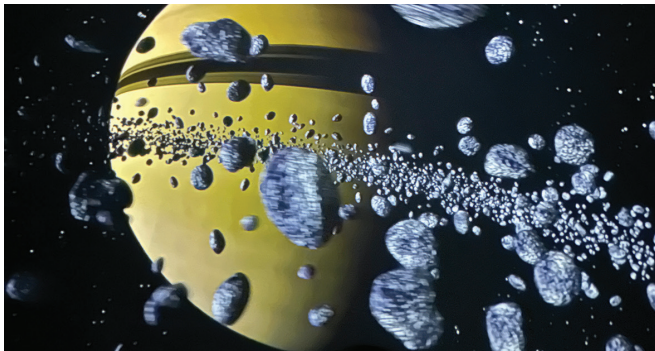


MUSEUM PASSES

Check out a Museum Adventure Pass or an Explore More Illinois pass for free admission or other discounts at popular spots including the Chicago Botanic Garden or the Griffin Museum of Science & Industry.
VAPLD.info/museum-passes

Classes & Events *for elementary-aged kids*

All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted ( off-site,  online). All events are free and open to all. Signup is required, starting 30 days in advance, unless otherwise noted. Sign up at VAPLD.info/calendar or call 224-543-1486.



Portable Planetarium, December 4

Hour of Code with SHS Girls in STEAM **GRADES K-4**

Stevenson High School Girls in STEAM demystify code in this beginner-level one hour introduction to computer science.

Monday, December 1, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm

Winter Card Workshop **GRADES K-5**

Celebrate the magic of the season and create handmade cards to give to loved ones. We will use a combination of papers, embellishments and other art supplies to create two heartfelt cards. Dress for a mess.

Wednesday, December 3
Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm
Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Take & Make Craft Kits **ALL AGES**

Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

December 5: Snowy Owl
December 19: Party in a Bag
January 9: 3D Portrait
February 6: Winter Olympics

Portable Planetarium **GRADES K-5**

Get an up-close look at the moon and stars in The Discovery Center Museum's portable planetarium.

Thursday, December 4, 4:30–5:15 pm or 5:30–6:15 pm

Family Concerts **ALL AGES**

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am
December 6: Miss Jamie from the Farm
January 10: Scribblemonster
February 7: Nanny Nikki

Tiny Portrait Art Show Supply Pick Up AGES 10–ADULT

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of One Book One Community by creating a portrait inspired by the cover of this year's selection, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. See pg. 10 for more details.

Pick up beginning Sunday, December 7

Tinker Tank GRADES 3–5

Dive into a hands-on tech adventure where students can explore and experiment with robots, electronics, and coding kits. No experience required.

Tuesday, December 9, 4:30–5:30 pm or 7–8 pm

K9 Reading Buddies GRADES 1–5

Build confidence and encourage literacy as you read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Sign up for a 15-minute spot beginning 30 days before the program by calling 224-543-1486 or visiting the Youth Desk.

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 pm

December 10, January 21, February 11

Cook Along with Chef Kristyn GRADES K–8

Add some fun to Friday night by cooking along with the group from home on Zoom.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 

December 19: French Toast

January 23: Lasagna & Garlic Bread

February 20: Gold Medal Munchies

Drop-In Art ALL AGES

Drop in for a sticker mosaic and coloring. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, December 20, 10 am–4 pm

Fridays, December 26, January 2, 10 am–4 pm

Wednesday, February 18, 3:30–7 pm

Lego Master Builders GRADES K–5

Love building with Legos? Work through a challenge, then let your imagination run wild during free building time.

Monday, December 29, 1–2 pm or 3–4 pm

Kid Market Application Period GRADES 3–8

Junior entrepreneurs: apply for personalized business coaching, followed by an expo-style market day at the library in April. Details and application: VAPLD.info/KidMarket

Apply: December 28–January 25

Market Day: April 18

Puzzle Race GRADES 3–ADULT

Put your skills to the test in a timed competition. Teams have up to 2 hours to complete as much of a 500-piece puzzle as possible. Register individually or in a team of up to four people. Prizes will be awarded. Adult required for teams with children under age 12.

Friday, January 2, 1–3 pm

Interactive Movie: *Sonic the Hedgehog* AGES 3–12

Interact, crack jokes, and battle alongside the Blue Blur with an interactive viewing of *Sonic the Hedgehog* (2020). Every registered child will receive a bag of props to use during the movie.

Saturday, January 3, 10–11:45 am or 1:30–3:15 pm

Winter STEM Storytime GRADES K–2

This STEM storytime will feature a seasonal story and a variety of related STEM activities.

Wednesday, January 7, 4:30–5:15 pm

Snowy Science GRADES 3–5

Participate in hands-on, winter-themed science activities.

Wednesday, January 7, 7–7:45 pm



Lego Master Builders, December 29

Cartoon Workshop with Mark Anderson GRADES K-5

Can you escape the Cartoon Escape Room before the end of class? Exercise your creative muscles in this lively, interactive drawing class with professional cartoonist Mark Anderson.

Tuesday, January 13, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm

Lock Decoders GRADES 3-5

Use your detective skills and brain power to unlock as many locks as you can before time runs out. Follow the clues, solve the puzzles, and have fun!

Wednesday, January 14, 4:30–5:45 pm

Giving Back on MLK Day GRADES K-5

Engage with your community while honoring the legacy of Dr. King. Make no-sew blankets, cards and other crafts that will be donated to local organizations. Supplies and instructions provided. Family groups welcome.

Monday, January 19, 1–2:30 pm

Bluestem Award Book Discussion GRADES 3-5

This parent and child book group will discuss *The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum* by Lisa Yee and Dan Santat. Pick up a copy of the book (yours to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Thursday, January 22, 7–8 pm

Princess Storytime with Belle AGES 2 & UP

Listen to stories with your favorite book-loving princess then stay for a meet and greet and photo op.

Saturday, January 24, 10–11:30 am

Chess GRADES 2-8

Discover chess moves, strategies, and checkmate techniques with National Chess Master Arjun Vishnuvardhan of Glenview Chess. All experience levels welcome.

Wednesday, January 28

Grades 2-4: 5–6 pm

Grades 5-8: 6:30–7:30 pm

Create Art with Miss Jane: Portraits GRADES K-5

Create your own self-portraits to express yourself using step-by-step instructions with Miss Jane.

Tuesday, February 3

Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm

Parent Education: The Science of Motivating Young People with Dr. David Yeager PARENTS

Presented in partnership with D96, D102, and D103 Parent Education.

Wednesday, February 4, 7–8 pm 

Lego Robotics GRADES K-5

Build and program the Roaring Lion model using the Lego Education WeDo software in this fun, hands-on program.

Monday, February 9

Grades K-2: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3-5: 7–8 pm



Giving Back on MLK Day, January 19

Instrument Petting Zoo **GRADES K-5**

Meet musicians from the Libertyville School of Rock for an opportunity to see, hear, touch, and even play a variety of guitars, drums and keyboard instruments.

Tuesday, February 10, 6–7:30 pm

Winter Olympics Fun with Roary **GRADES K-5**

Compete with the library's very own T-Rex, Roary, and get excited about the 2026 Winter Olympics! Bring your future Olympians for tabletop curling, the hula hoop slalom, and other exciting events.

Monday, February 16, 2–3 pm

Dance to China: Lunar New Year Celebration

PRESCHOOL–GRADE 5

Welcome the Year of the Horse with dance performances from China's different regions and cultural groups. Presented by Angela Tam, founding Artistic Director of Yin He Dance.

Saturday, February 21, 11 am–12 pm

Frog Lady & Friends **GRADES K-5**

The Frog Lady brings her frogs and friends to the library. Learn more about her favorite amphibians and reptiles and see them up close.

Tuesday, February 24, 4:30–5:30 pm



Dance to China, February 21

Calling All Junior Entrepreneurs!

Is your student always busy creating something—keychains, slime, bracelets, or any other DIY project?

Encourage them to apply to participate in Kid Market at the library—a hands-on opportunity for future entrepreneurs to develop real-life business and money management skills.

Successful applications can sell their wares at a table at the Kid Market on April 18 and will receive business coaching from the library's Business Librarian. For more details and to apply online, visit VAPLD.info/KidMarket

Application Period: December 28–January 25
Open to children in grades 3–8



**Vernon Area Library
Kid Market**





Playdate at the Library, January 30

Classes & Events *for early childhood*

Drop In

It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine. Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age. Claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun! Free and open to all. All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted.

Baby Rhyme Storytime 0-14 MONTHS

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes and books with Miss Kelsey. Then connect with neighbors while your baby plays with educational toys and socializes with others.

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 am

December 3, 10, 17; January 7, 14, 21; February 4, 11, 25

Wiggling Ones 12-24 MONTHS

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am

December 2, 9, 16; January 6, 13, 20; February 3, 10, 24

Together 2s & 3s 2-3 YEARS

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am

December 1, 8, 15; January 5, 12, 19; February 2, 9, 16

Preschool Storytime 3-5 YEARS

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am

December 4, 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22; February 5, 12, 19

Starry Night Storytime AGES 0-6

Get out those last few wiggles during an evening storytime with Miss Julia.

Thursdays, 6-6:30 pm

January 15, February 5

Take & Make Craft Kits ALL AGES

Stop by the library each month for instructions and supplies to make a craft. Available while supplies last beginning:

December 5: Snowy Owl

December 19: Party in a Bag

January 9: 3D Portrait

February 6: Winter Olympics

Drop-In Art ALL AGES

Drop in for a sticker mosaic and coloring. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, December 20, 10 am-4 pm

Fridays, December 26, January 2, 10 am-4 pm

Wednesday, February 18, 3:30-7 pm

Big Blue Blocks Playdate ALL AGES

Build and play using the library's big blue blocks.

9:30-11 am

Tuesday, December 23; Friday, February 27

Saturday Storytime AGES 0-6

Literacy begins at the library! Expert librarians use books, songs, and props that capture the attention of all ages. Perfect for working families, bookworms, wiggleworms, and everyone in between.

Saturday, December 27, 10-10:30 am

Snowy Sensory Storytime AGES 0-6

Let's have SNOW much fun, exploring, singing, reading, and playing at Sensory Storytime. For children of all abilities.

Tuesday, January 27, 9:30-10 am or 10:30-11 am

Playdate at the Library AGES 0-5

Get out of the house for a welcoming library playdate that celebrates the power of free play in early childhood.

Friday, January 30, 9:30-11 am

Sign Up in Advance

Free and open to all. For these storytimes and events, sign up 30 days in advance at VAPLD.info/calendar, by telephone at 224-543-1486 or at any public service desk in the library. All programs in-person at the library unless otherwise noted.



New Year's Noon, December 30

Science Detectives AGES 3-6

This literature-based program encourages children and their adults to discover the world around them by engaging in hands-on science activities.

Fridays, 10-10:30 am

December 5: Owls

January 9: Winter

February 6: Pirates

Family Concerts ALL AGES

Enjoy performances by nationally acclaimed children's musicians.

Saturdays, 11-11:45 am

December 6: Miss Jamie from the Farm

January 10: Scribblemonster

February 7: Nanny Nikki

New Year's Noon AGE 0-6

Wear your fancy party clothes and celebrate New Year's Eve a little early. Enjoy stories, songs, and a special countdown just before noon!

Tuesday, December 30, 11:15 am-12 pm

Interactive Movie: *Sonic the Hedgehog* AGES 3-12

Interact, crack jokes, and battle alongside the Blue Blur with an interactive viewing of *Sonic the Hedgehog* (2020). Every registered child will receive a bag of props to use during the movie.

Saturday, January 3, 10-11:45 am or 1:30-3:15 pm

Sunshine Squad AGES 0-6

Stories and activities focused on social-emotional development and cultural appreciation make the world a kinder, sunnier place for everyone.

10-10:45 am

Friday, January 16: Tomorrow's Leaders

Saturday, February 14: Spread Love

Bilingual Mandarin Storytime AGES 0-6

Enjoy stories and songs while exploring an introduction to Mandarin in this interactive storytime with The Language Labs.

Friday, January 23, 10-10:30 am

Princess Storytime with Belle AGES 2 & UP

Listen to stories with your favorite book-loving princess then stay for a meet and greet and photo op.

Saturday, January 24, 10-11:30 am

Mini Math Magicians AGES 3-5

Explore math concepts through books, games, and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10-10:30 am

January 29, February 26

Dance to China: Lunar New Year Celebration

PRESCHOOL-GRADE 5

Welcome the Year of the Horse with dance performances from China's different regions and cultural groups. Presented by Angela Tam, founding Artistic Director of Yin He Dance.

Saturday, February 21, 11 am-12 pm



Snowy Sensory Storytime, January 27

Vernon Area Public Library
300 Olde Half Day Rd.
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

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U.S. Postage
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Lincolnshire, IL
60069
Permit No. 34

ECRWSS

CAR-RT SORT Postal Customer

Connect

VAPLD.info

Main: 847-634-3650

App: Look for Vernon Area Public Library in your device's App Store

Socials: Follow @vernonlibrary for updates and fun content



Get a Library Card

Free and available to all district residents. Apply online at VAPLD.info/card or visit.

Returns

Return materials 24/7 in front of the library or at these drop boxes:
VAPLD.info/bookdrops

Open

Monday–Thursday 9 am – 9 pm
Friday–Saturday 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday 10 am – 5 pm

Closed

November 26, closes at 5 pm
November 27
December 24–25
December 31–January 1

Photos & videos may be taken at programs in the library. If you do not wish to be photographed, please notify staff.



▲ Volunteer at the Library

Want to give back to your community? The library is looking for adults with time and talent to help with events and programming, as an English language conversation partner, or as a shelf reader. Learn more and apply online at VAPLD.info/Volunteer. For teen opportunities, visit VAPLD.info/TeenVolunteers

*This magazine is printed on recycled paper
made of 30% post-consumer waste.*

